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PATENT

Customer No. 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 6879.0004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Yukio Watanabe et al.

Application No.: 10/019,658

Filed: January 2, 2002

For: **HARDNESS TAPER TUBE AND
PRODUCTION METHOD AND
DEVICE THEREFOR**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final action, Quayle action, or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified by Section 1.17(p).

Copies of the listed documents, including any copending patent applications, are attached.

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180.00 DP

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English documents, Applicants are submitting the corresponding patents. U.S. Patent 3,752,617 corresponds to Japanese citation No. 52-48150, U.S. Patent 4,045,401 corresponds to Japanese citation No. 51-79048 and United Kingdom Patent No. 2178691 corresponds to Japanese citation No. 62-19427.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 16, 2003

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

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Atty. Docket No. 6879.0004	Appln. No. 10/019,658	DEC 23 2003
Applicant Yukio Watanabe et al.		
Filing Date DEC 16 2003 January 2, 2002	Group: 1722	TC 1700

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate	
	3,752,617	08/14/73	Burlis et al.				
	4,045,401	08/30/77	Stenmark et al.				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No	
	2 178 691 A	02/18/87	United Kingdom				
	52-48150	01/11/77	Japan				
	51-79048	07/09/76	Japan				
	62-19427	01/28/87	Japan				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce